

MATCH REPORT

Pre-season Friendly

28th August 2022

Coulsdon Athletic FC 2 – 1 Reigate Town FC

Yesterday saw CAFC host Reigate Town at the now world-famous Mount.

After the tough task of a team from the div above last week we were playing Reigate Town today, who are in the same league as us. After the win last week, we now had to try and achieve back to back wins, even pre-season that would be a very positive statement for the team. A number of players returning from holidays and injury, although we were still missing a couple, we were certainly getting stronger.

The game kicked off and unfortunately we didn't start brightly. Sluggish, playing ourselves into trouble, swinging at the ball with no real intent of picking out a player. I'm probably making us sound worse than we were but we were not impressive in the slightest, sometimes you have to be honest. We were still fighting though, and so it wasn't easy for Reigate to have clear cut chances. The game got a bit niggly with handbags starting to be swung and tempers fraying in the struggle to find a rhythm. We had to get this out of our system, and quick. Whilst we were still not on top of our game, we fell behind 1-0. A soft goal as well. We had to stop looking for a row and play football.

We needed a wake up call. A quick rocket about starting to settle on the ball and find our shape, as well as us planning a reshuffle was needed. Liam was working hard, but took a knock, and he had to be replaced with Georgie. Time to see what we could do. It was immediately better. However, we do not want to have to go behind in a game to get going, so we need to get that out of our system. Haz was leading from the front and showing true leadership, getting the team going. We were now at last starting to show what we can do.

Attacks were building nicely from midfield, with Lige breaking up attacks well, and Nath moving the ball through lines and making in roads into the oppo's half. Half chances were starting to be created and we were also starting to play a lot of the game in Reigate's half. A series of corners saw us making chances. With the third corner in so many minutes a flick on found Haz in the box. He directed a header across the goal and it was flying in top corner.... but all of a sudden a head rose from the oppo and it was cleared off the line! So close! But the improvement now evident.

About 5 minutes before half time Coulsdon won yet another corner. This time ball got brought down in the box, and Haz took control, and with a swift turn, he slid the ball towards bottom corner to the keepers right. It showed a cool head and was clinical and nestled in the inion bag. A skippers goal. 1-1.

The half ended with us still on top.

Easy half time team talk, because tempers had calmed, the passing and possession was good, giving us chances. So come on lads, keep focused, pick out a pass, give some good movement up top, and cut out unforced and silly errors.

MATCH REPORT

The break did us no harm at all. The second half started with a positive intent, and our stand in keeper Raff, was not getting tested at all. Johnny and Billy were controlling the centre well, and Charly and Adz were doing well at full backs.

George came on for the hard working Alfie and went out to eh wing. He'd been playing well pre-season and had scored 2 in 2, so he although naturally defensive, he also gave a threat to the opo's.

Kunz was moved into central midfield and partnered Lige, and Nath was brought back on upfront with the skipper playing the No 10 role.

Again, we were not only winning the 50-50's we were wining the 4-60's and in fact it was our oppo's now losing composure. They were giving away silly free kicks with ill discipline from our good pressure.

We built an attack on our left, and the ball was played through to Nath, and swift move of the ball, and a small juggle that flicked the ball in the air, saw it perfectly set up for a header across goal, and a chance completely made by himself. The ball floated goal wards.... and just wide of the post!! Unlucky!! Thought we had the lead there!!

Again we pressed, and another chance from the left hand side saw Sam slide the ball into the box to Nath, our oppo's were scrambling to try and snuff out the attack, Nath chipped a cross into the goal and across the face of goal. Our skipper Haz rose and flicked the ball on - and up popped George to show the determination needed in a 50-50 to win the ball. And winning the ball in that position meant that he also sent it towards the goal, looping nicely over the keepers outstretched hand - and into the goal 2-1 Coulsdon!! Now its 3 in 3 for Georgie Boy!!

Coulsdon then controlled the rest of the half well, but our oppos did forge an attack down our right. The winger beat our full back Liam.... and he only had to get passed Billy and he was in for a one on one with Raff. But that's the thing, he had to get passed Billy. With eyes for the ball, and not the jinxing feet, bosh in a Moore Like challenge took the ball. Never in doubt. The big lad kept us in the lead.

With us now not taking any unnecessary chances, whilst still staying positive and attacking, we just made sure not to over commit. That meant we could see the game out and when the ref blew the whistle it meant we had achieved back to back wins. That was massive for confidence.

Man of the match was Lige and the performance was very good - eventually. Well done lads.

Final Score: CAFC 2 Reigate Town 1

Goals: Haz and George